

Message Text

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51

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 IO-14 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 EUR-25 NEA-10 DPW-01

SAJ-01 ACDA-19 DRC-01 /181 W
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FM USDEL JEC PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0184

INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON PRIORITY

UNCLAS JEC PARIS 6873

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: VN, PINT, VS

SUBJECT: GVNDL PRESS CONFERENCE ON FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF SVN
BILATERALS

REF: SAIGON 3565

1. PHONG, ACTING CHIEF, GVNDL, PRESIDED OVER A
LENGTHY PRESS CONFERENCE MARKING THE FIRST
ANNIVERSARY OF THE GVN-PRG TALKS AT LA CELLE ST.
CLOUD. MUCH OF PHONG'S PRESENTATION WAS BASED ON
REFTEL, AND THE GVN COMMUNIQUE WAS DISTRIBUTED TO
THE CORRESPONDENTS.

2. CONCERNING PROSPECTS FOR A COMMUNIST GENERAL
OFFENSIVE IN SVN, PHONG RESPONDED IN THE FOLLOWING
TERMS: SINCE JANUARY, 1973 THE COMMUNIST SIDE HAD
CARRIED OUT THREE MAIN OBJECTIVES IN SVN -- A.
MODERNIZATION OF ARTILLERY AND OTHER WEAPONRY;
B. CONSOLIDATION OF LOGISTICAL AND TRANSPORT SYSTEMS,
AND C. REGULARIZATION OF NVA TROOPS NOW FULLY
INTEGRATED AND DESIGNATED AS PLAF. IN VARYING
FORMS INTENSIFICATION OF FIELD COMBAT AND TERRORISM
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HAD OCCURRED. HANOI THUS HAD THE MEANS AND THE

WILL TO CARRY OUT A GENERAL OFFENSIVE IN THE SOUTH;
THAT NONE HAD YET BEGUN WAS DUE TO "PREVENTIVE
EFFORTS" UNDERTAKEN BY RVNAF.

3. ON THE LA CELLE ST. CLOUD SITUATION, PHONG
ANSWERED QUERIES BY CONTRASTING SUCCESSIVE GVN
INITIATIVES AND PROPOSALS WITH PRG OBDURACY AND
ENDLESS ISSUANCE OF PRECONDITIONS. PHONG'S RESPONSE
ABOUT THE "THIRD FORCE" WAS THAT NEITHER THE
AGREEMENT NOR THE PRG HAD EVER DEFINED IT, SO
THE GVN HAD PROPOSED THAT THE "THIRD COMPONENT"
OF THE NCNRC BE DESIGNATED JOINTLY BY THE GVN AND
PRG. (HE COMMENTED THAT A PLETHORA OF AMBITIOUS
INDIVIDUALS WERE NOW CLAMORING FOR RECOGNITION
AS LEADERS OF THE "THIRD FORCE")

4. WHEN ASKED WHETHER THE US WOULD INTERVENE
MILITARILY IN CASE OF A COMMUNIST GENERAL OFFENSIVE,
PHONG PARRIED BY SAYING THAT THE OBLIGATIONS OF
THE US WERE CLEARLY STIPULATED IN THE AGREEMENT --
AS WERE THE OBLIGATIONS OF THE DRV. THE LATTER
HAD HARDLY FULFILLED ITS RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER
ARTICLE 20, PHONG CONCLUDED.
WILLIAMS

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NNN

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